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The Mattachine Society of the Niagara Frontier

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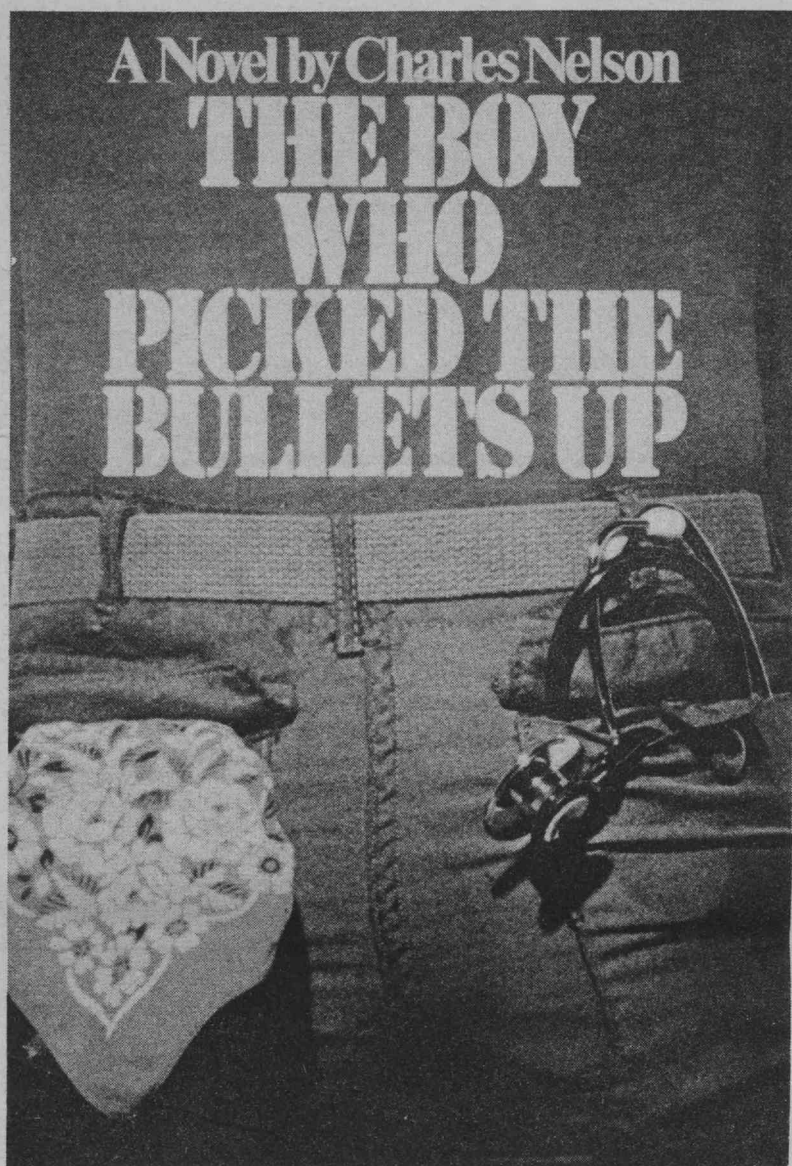
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"The Freedom to love whomever and however we want"

The Gay Hotline: Who Needs It?

by John A. Faulring, Jr.



The Boy Who Caught The Bullets Up is a fascinating look at a "man's war," and what goes on during the times the TV cameras aren't rolling to show the folks back home what's really happening.

Book Review

The Boy Who Picked the Bullets Up: Gay Novel Of The Viet Nam War Era

THE BOY WHO PICKED THE BULLETS UP by Charles Nelson (William Morrow & Company, 105 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10016. Hardcover \$13.95.)

by John A. Faulring, Jr.

The cover of this book is almost enough to let anyone "in the know" know that this is a gay novel. It consists of a rear shot of a kahaki military uniform with a light blue, or is it robin's egg blue (?), handkerchief in the left back pocket. In the right one is a Kurt's stethoscope. This is a new one in the code book. (See the reproduction of the cover that accompanies this review.)

What the codes really mean is that this is the story of a young gay medic that takes place in Viet Nam. It really means more than the surface signs, though.

The "boy" in the title may start out that way, but by the end of the book he is more man than most could ever hope to be... straight or gay. His name is Kurt and he is described as being 6'3" tall and weighing 200 lbs., but he is a much bigger character than that.

The book takes the form of letters to a home from "over there," and what they reveal is quite captivating. There are four people that receive letters from Kurt, or Kurt manages to take some very nice trips should I say four Kurt's. Those involved are

his grandmother, who is really a together old lady; Arch, his former baseball farm teammate; a straight girlfriend; and Paul, his closest gay friend. Each of them gets a letter from a different facet of Kurt that the others never get to see. The reader gets to hear about the same event from four, sometimes less, different viewpoints. Sometimes it gets difficult to tell if they are indeed the same event or not.

We never get to see or read any of the letters from the four correspondents, just Kurt's replies. However, through his responses we get to know all of his family that he left behind and went to fight in Viet Nam to protect. Once you get to know something about them, you wonder why he bothered.

The idea that he is gay is definitely not the main story line here. Of course, it does surface in many instances where it can add an air of excitement to the war scene, but what it is really all about is just managing to survive out of your own element. There are descriptions of his fellow corpsmen and their equipment. He describes how he feels toward them, but never labors on that theme. After all there is a war to be fought. But remember the old saying, "An army travels on its stomach." people that receive letters from Kurt, or Kurt manages to take some very nice trips should I say four Kurt's. Those involved are

"I'm only 16. Where can I go to meet gay people?"

"I'm a married man and I like to have sex with men, too. Is there something wrong with me?"

"I enjoy dressing in women's clothes. Where can I meet people who like the same thing?"

"When is the next GP meeting?"

"I am a Lesbian with 3 children. Who can I talk to about problems I have dealing with this situation?"

"I'm visiting from out of town. Does Buffalo have any gay bars?"

"I will be going to Las Vegas on my vacation. Do you have any listings as far as bars go for there?"

This is only a very small sample of the types of questions that are received on the Gay Hotline. The variety of questions is astounding and the need is getting greater all the time.

Mattachine has had the Hotline service for over 11 years now. It has survived the many moves the Society has had to make over the years. It continues to be a very important part of Buffalo's gay experience.

Other Agencies Refer to Hotline

Many of Buffalo's other counseling services recognize the Gay Hotline as a valid, and necessary, supplement to their list of qualified referral services. We get calls from those referred, as well as the counselors themselves.

Mattachine has been approached as far as having sessions where their counselor and ours would meet in marathon sessions to help with the understanding of problems that occur in gay life. We need more trained counselors before this can be attempted on the scale needed. Such a program would greatly benefit both sides.

These agencies recognize the importance of peer counseling in really helping to come to grips with our lifestyle. They also realize their own shortcomings as far as the training they receive in their education as far as dealing with homosexual clients. It is up to the gay community to provide this first hand experience for them and to follow up any cases that the agency feels need this extra effort.

Not All Calls Gay

Many calls that we receive are not from gays at all. We hear from many heterosexuals who have questions about their feelings, sexual problems or medical referrals. They say they don't know where to turn that they can talk about these matters; or that they have called other agencies and have gotten nowhere; and have even been referred to us by other agencies as a source of information.

Many calls are for information about the gay lifestyle, too. Many of these come from parents, friends, spouses and children of gays. These people want to learn more about their loved ones so they can fully understand and help them cope.

Currently there are efforts to get support groups organized for all these people. If anyone is interested in these groups, write Jack c/o of the paper. These would be very helpful to the many callers we have that are seeking this type of group.

VD Information

A large percentage of our calls are for medical information. Many people want to find a "gay doctor" that they can feel comfortable going to. At the present time we have no list to refer from. However, in re-

sponse to VD cases, we are able to send people to the Erie County VD Clinic in the Rath Building. The clinic has been very helpful and understanding with gays referred to them.

There are many misconceptions associated with the various types of VD and it is best to go to a place that specializes in their treatment. The best part of sending people to the clinic are that it is free and confidential. Even minors can be sent there without their parents being notified.

Most physicians that are approached with the idea of gay referrals, especially those who are gay, are rather hesitant to be put on any type of list. Many say that they would not discriminate against a patient just because they are gay. However, that chance is still there. Many people would just like to have the freedom to be completely honest with their doctor, so they can get the best results from their treatment. Hopefully, soon, we will be able to give such referrals.

Group Information

The Hotline gets calls asking about women's groups, GP, the baths and all related gay activities. With there not being any other number to call for many of these groups, we become a clearing service for information for all the functions that may be going on. This is why we need to hear from all the Lesbian and gay groups that are in Buffalo. We have people who are looking for you and want to help them find you.

Many of these calls come from very young people that want to meet gays. They feel they are gay or just might be. They know they can't go to the bars and wonder if there are ever other activities they could attend. There are more and more opportunities that are given to them by non-bar type activities, but there needs to be more chances to see what gay life is all about.

Many callers ask for types of groups that are not available at the present time in Buffalo. These vary from transvestite to married men's groups to women into S&M. The list continues to grow all the time. If your group fulfills the needs of a certain group, please let us know so we can tell our callers about you.

Harrassment Calls

In the process of listing ourselves under "Gay Community Services Center" (center in this case and at this time meaning a focal point and not specific place), we do open ourselves up to crank calls, harrassing individuals and kids just fooling around. These are few in number, but you do have to be prepared for them. To pick up the phone and hear some of the language can be quite disturbing.

These calls are really the easiest to deal with. Usually they only last a few seconds and are finished. Many of the hang-ups are not pranks, though.

We find that many of these are genuine calls from someone who may be in the process of coming out. They want and need to reach out to someone so badly that when they finally do hear a voice at the other end of the line, they are terrified, can't talk to us and hang up. Many times they will call back later and relate that this happened. This may go on for a long period of time before they are finally able to talk to us.

We get calls from people wanting to talk to us while they masturbate. This has to be one of the most difficult calls to handle. You can feel the need of the person, not just for sexual release, but the deeper need for human companionship and closeness.

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AN EDITORIAL:

Buffalo Bars: Coming and Going

With the opening of another new gay bar in Buffalo, the time has come for the owners, and the patrons, to begin asking themselves a few questions.

It is no secret that the Buffalo community has demonstrated a collective mob mentality of deserting one establishment for another. It has caused the downfall of one bar after another, and kept Buffalo a basic three or four bar town, while smaller cities like Rochester easily support eight or more.

So as patrons, it is a good time to ask ourselves "Why?" Just what are we looking for a bar owner to do to keep our business? Is it really to our advantage to have only a limited number of places to go? Do we have any sense of "loyalty" to those bar owners, gay or straight, who take on the problems (and, yes, the profits) of running a gay bar in Buffalo?

The owners might ask themselves, too, how they feel about their patrons. Are we real people, or simply a source of dollars? Are you willing to take the initiative to do something different, or do you stick with a tried and true formula because you know it works? Disco bars, even among the gay community, appear to have a limited future. Where do we go from here?

We ask, too, why have the gay business people here, and we talk specifically here of the bar owners, been unable to coordinate their efforts? Joint promotions of special events would not only benefit the owner in increased profits, but the patrons, too. Does everyone have to run their drink specials and special events on the same day?

We don't pretend to know the answers. But the questions, we think, merit some thought by everyone.

In This Issue...

THE FIFTH FREEDOM'S 11TH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

This is the 11th anniversary issue of *The Fifth Freedom*. And the first anniversary of the stars and stripes logo. We hope you enjoy this double anniversary issue.

We have a variety of features in addition to our regular columns for you this month. They range from book reviews to ways of getting rid of crabs. Also a few thoughts on the Delaware and North situation and a lawsuit update.

You'll also find stories about Buffalo's newest bar and short takes on many assorted happenings around the nation.

Our lead story is an informational look at the Gay Hotline.

We hope you read all the stories. There will be questions later.

Thanks for keeping us alive for the 11 years. We hope to serve you at least that much longer.

Letters to the Editor

City Lights, a/k/a Mean Alice's Defended Regarding Changes

I would like to respond to Tim Denesha's letter to the editor, Aug. issue, which criticizes the owner of City Lights.

Since Tim was absent from the scene for so long, it would seem that he is not exactly in a position to evaluate the situation as it occurred prior to his return.

First, Mean Alice's, before its demise, was a gathering place for a heterogeneous group of gays, not just GQ, pretty boy types, and it is still that way.

Second, when the Arrow and MacArthur's Park opened, the gay crowd drifted away from Alice's. John did not toss the gays out! While Tim was frolicking in the gay life of the West Coast, John Little was sitting in a nearly empty bar every night and on weekends. He tried everything he could think of to draw them back, but nothing worked. A few lone stragglers would drop in and say they didn't want to stay because no one was there.

In an effort to draw the women in, John turned the downstairs into a Women's Bar, with two female bartenders, candlelight, and romantic music. That bombed also. Where were all the gay women who used to say they wished they had a nice bar without loud music, where they could drink and socialize?

Thus, John was torn between closing entirely or trying to save the business. The result was a straight-oriented City Lights. It lasted long enough to have a reverse psychological effect, and all of a sudden the gays wanted back in.

The only thing Tim said that made any sense was that all the bars should be able to survive. So, welcome back City Lights, and continued success to Me and My Arrow!

Carol

Gay Ghetto Talk Spurs Thoughts

Recently I read in the Fifth Freedom about the idea of a "Gay Ghetto", and being a homeowner on the Lower West Side of Buffalo I feel this would be an ideal area for such a place.

In the past year I have noticed this area change for the better and I feel it will continue to improve.

My reasons for feeling this area would be the perfect place are the following:

1. The LWS (or West Village) is within walking distance of Allentown
The Theater District
Downtown
Shopping areas
The Waterfront Village
& the Erie Basin Marina
Lasalle Park

THE FIFTH FREEDOM

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The presence of the name, picture or other representation of a business organization or person(s), in this newspaper is not an indication of the sexual preference of such person(s), organization or business.

THE FIFTH FREEDOM welcomes the submission of news items, articles, letters, drawings, photographs, poetry and short fiction from the gay community. Announcements and releases from gay organizations are placed free of charge. Materials submitted should be typewritten and double-spaced. We cannot return any materials submitted unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope, and all materials are subject to editorial revision.

Deadline for the submission of all materials and advertising copy is the 20th of each month. THE FIFTH FREEDOM reserves the right to reject any materials or copy judged to be in poor taste.

Staff members of the FIFTH FREEDOM are unsalaried volunteers and additional volunteers are welcome. Advertising rates are available upon request.

Address all correspondence to: THE FIFTH FREEDOM, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Telephone: (716) 881-5335.

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JOHN A. FAULRING JR., EDITOR

Gay Cops To Be Hired In Toronto Area?

TORONTO — A study costing \$22,500, says the Toronto Police should actively try to recruit gays to serve on the force.

The study was commissioned after four raids on gay bathhouses in February was presented to the city council. It was hoped that it would help close a "gulf of mistrust and misunderstandings" between gays and police if implemented.

Neither the police nor the gay groups jumped at the chance to set the report into motion. Both sides feel that the plan, in its present form, is not workable. The feelings between the groups are still at a very uneasy stage because of the bath raids.

Sectors of Toronto's gay community are split as to whether or not the plan is workable. There will be much dialogue amongst gays before the talks even start with the authorities about the plan.

(Editor's Note: The FIFTH FREEDOM welcomes "Letters to the Editor." Letters for submission should be typed, double-spaced and less than 300 words. Send to THE FIFTH FREEDOM, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Letters must be signed in order to be considered for publication, however the FIFTH FREEDOM will withhold the writer's name upon request).

2. Many gays now live and own homes on the LWS and have shown many other homeowners the assets of having Gay neighbors.

3. Homes on the LWS can be purchased cheaper than most anywhere in the city (many homes are doubles and would have an income). Many of these homes are of the same vintage as Allentown and could be easily renovated or restored.

4. The Lower West Side is a target area for government grants to do the work on these homes or the purchase of them.

5. With the increase in gas and the flow of people back into the city, now is the time to buy or rent in the LWS before prices sky rocket, which I'm sure they will.

6. Many homeowners in the LWS are willing to sell with owner financing which is usually cheaper than bank interest rates. A lot of these homeowners are older and are just not physically able to maintain home ownership.

I hope many gays will take this letter seriously and will act now. If you feel you want more information on the Lower West Side and this idea, please contact me in care of this paper.

I am not writing this as an activist, but as a concerned home owner who feels positive about his neighborhood and the Gay community of Buffalo.

Thanks,
Timmer

Continued on page 6

The Media Watch

Anti-Gay Coverage Appears In Abundance This Election Year

BY ROD HENSEL

Well it's an election year folks, no doubt about that. And although Mayor Jimmy Griffin is assured of re-election this November, the candidates for city council are scrambling for any votes they can get.

The conventional political wisdom in Buffalo is, of course, that an anti-homosexual stance is always good for a few votes, not to mention media headlines, so why not tie the gay into our current anti-vice campaign.

It was no surprise then to read about Republican Councilman William Marcy of the Delaware District showing up at a city court hearing sought by District Attorney Thomas Lokken in regards to the Mattachine lawsuit over the state's loitering laws.

As reported by Michael Beebe in the Buffalo Evening News, Marcy said he was solicited by a young man on North Street one night. Marcy said he was waiting in his car for his son when the young man approached him. "He said for \$10 he would perform a sexual act," the councilman was quoted as saying.

Our old friend Capt. Kenneth Kennedy also put in an appearance with some more of his horror stories about Gay Buffalo. You will recall in our last episode, the newspapers quoted Kennedy on the "swarms" of homosexuals descending on neighborhoods to recruit young boys for prostitution. This month he told a whopper of a story about a young boy who was approached by a "group" on North Street to perform a sex act, and as a result is now "afraid to come out of the house." At least that's what Kennedy says the boy's mother says, which makes it at least fourth hand information.

All this testimony has been linked to the problem of prostitution in the Allentown area. Now all I know is what I read in the papers, but doesn't Kennedy work for the same police department that was so responsive a few months ago when the female hookers were harassing and even mugging gay guys on the corner of Main and Allen. Only in an election year could the victims of the crime suddenly be put on an equal footing with the perpetrators.

No one is condoning the actions of prostitutes, be they male or female, but Kennedy seeks to put all gays in a bad light with his homophobic stance. There are laws against sex-for-money, but the vice squad doesn't want to loose the loitering law that can be used as a weapon against any gay person.

And while on the subject of Allentown, let's not forget that the gay community has played a substantial role (with substantial dollars) in keeping the place alive and giving it an "atmosphere," while the city government, until a few years ago, let the neighborhood rot. In the months ahead, the local media's task will be to present the full story, and we'll be watching to see what they do.

MEDIA COVERAGE of the Mattachine law suit has continued, with articles noting the naming of an additional defendant who was actually arrested under the state's loitering law. Meanwhile, one city court judge has ruled the loitering law, in a case involving a female, to be unconstitutional while another city court judge has ruled just the opposite.

Statewide, the gay newspapers in Albany and Rochester both gave the lawsuit story big play, using a press release put out by Mattachine.

CABLESCOPE RECOGNIZED the gay community last month with its locally produced interview program with Carl Buckner as host. Ron Wojciechowski, Joseph and Linda Dietrich spoke for the gay community on a wide variety of topics, including the Mattachine law suit, plans for a gay community center, and some basic education on the "gay lifestyle" in general. For the phone-in part of the show, the group were eight others, but that they were "screened out" because the callers used objectional language or were otherwise

unrational folks. The rational folks, I suppose, were all watching the "R" rated movies on Cablescope's other channels.

ON A FINAL NOTE, my favorite Hollywood reporter, Miss Rona of Today show fame, says Michael Jackson will sign on for the role of "Paul," the young gay dancer featured in the Broadway musical "A Chorus Line."

Jackson played Buffalo in a concert last month, and "A Chorus Line" was also here in September for a week-long run at Shea's. Having seen both, and using my imagination, I think he's perfect for the role.

Delaware and North Street: Hustlers or Gays?

Recently there has been some press about the goings on at the corner of Delaware and North. Every time it is mentioned the two words that always come up are "gay" and "prostitutes."

The police, area residents and Delaware District Councilman Marcy have all said there are gay prostitutes hanging around there. Marcy even claims he was approached and was told that for \$10 the guy would perform a sexual act.

The point that should be made is that NO ONE has proved that these men that hang around doing this sort of thing, and boys too, are indeed gay. Just ask all the business men that go to the baths and tea rooms.

Granted, there may be some of these people that do think of themselves as gay, but they really are not in the main stream of Buffalo's gay populace, but then who is? We may all prostitute ourselves at the bars whenever we go there and think nothing of it.

Most of those found there are hustlers. Nothing more, nothing less. All of the other

corners in the area are taken by the hookers and are doing a booming business, both in their profession and in robbery.

The emphasis is being placed on the apparent gay aspect of this corner, because the only thing "they" hate more than a prostitute is a homosexual.

We feel it is unfair to place this much emphasis on one aspect of the prostitution problem. We are against all prostitutes and the crime that accompanies their presence.

Mattachine is not trying to get the anti-loitering law revoked to allow this type of behavior, there are laws that cover the acts of prostitution and they should be enforced. We do not object to these laws.

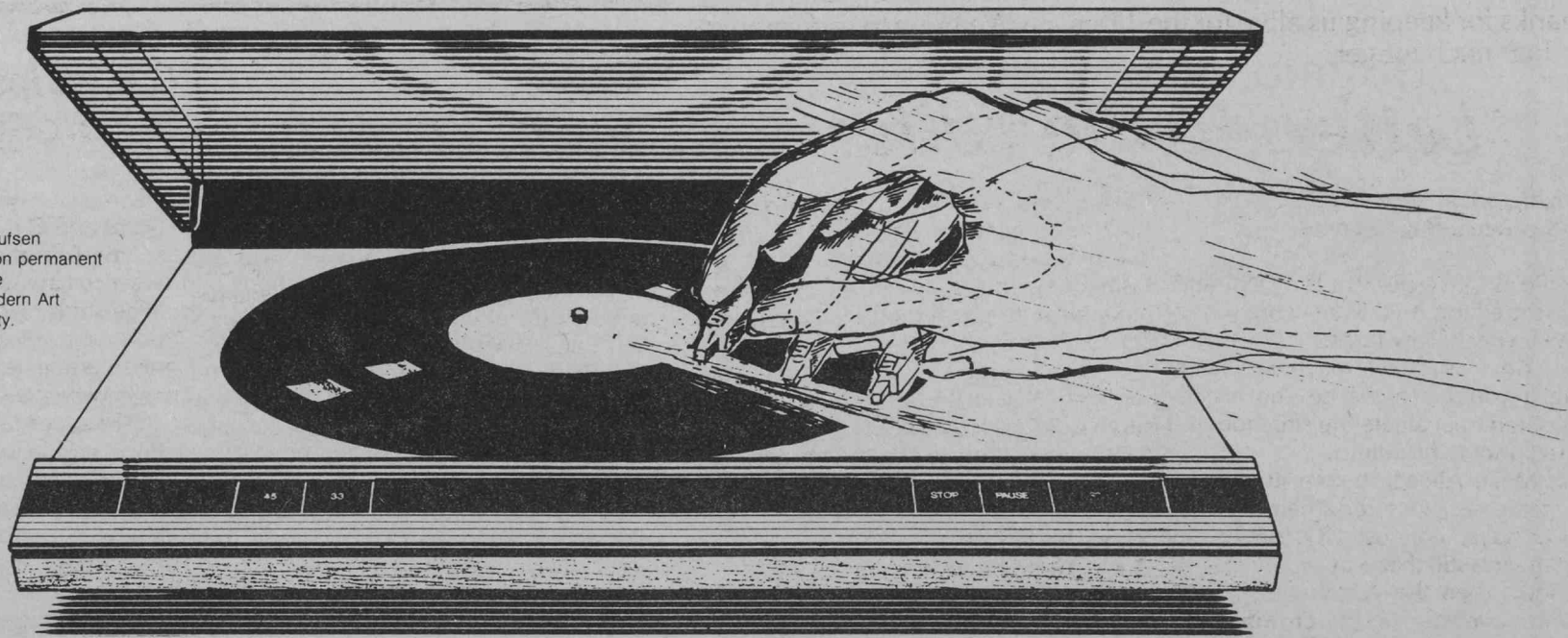
They are necessary at this time and should be used.

Perhaps it's time for the gays to voice their objections to this one-sided attack on prostitution and let people realize that "gay" and "prostitute" are not synonymous in this situation.

Councilman Marcy's telephone number is 855-5155. Call and let him know how you feel.

Scratch your favorite record on purpose?

The Bang & Olufsen turntables are on permanent exhibition at the Museum of Modern Art in New York City.



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Gay Hotline . . .

Continued from page 1

Each call is handled individually and no fast, hard rules are given to the counselors as to how to handle these callers.

Most counselors try to encourage the caller to talk about the real reason for their call. It can be loneliness, desperation, an unrequited love or a break-up of a relationship that is the underlying factor for this need. We try to encourage the person to try to get out into the mainstream of Buffalo's gay scene and find someone to share their feeling with. Sometimes it works, sometimes not.

Suicides and Emergencies

There are rare occasions that we receive a call where the person is desperate and says they are contemplating suicide, or feel they might. Most times they can be talked to and they realize that it is not really a solution to their problem. The counselor tries to point out possible ways of solving whatever is bothering them. Thankfully we succeed most of the time.

The emergencies are a little less urgent, but still in need of attention. It may be a lover relationship has just ended; a family member has just been told about the person's homosexuality and they reacted badly; or a hundred other things. Once again an ear to listen is oft times all that is needed. Loneliness has to be the number one reason for the hotline ringing.

Coming out

Most of our calls are from people wanting to be able to find out if there is anyone else around that feels the way they do. They are usually surprised to find out that there are gays around in numbers and that there are places to go and enjoy other people with the same desires.

Then once they have met these people, we usually hear from them regarding things they have seen and experienced. They cannot talk to those they met at a bar about their feelings and likes and dislikes, so they turn back to us. And they hear about different terms or practices and wonder what they mean or if they are common forms of expression.

Villa Capri

926 Main Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

Phone (716) 886-9469

Mon-Sat 10am-4am

Sun noon til 4am

D.J. Nightly & Sunday Afternoon

Photo: R.E.B.

News Briefs

Gertrude Stein, Costume Skate, Train Ride and Good Times

by Kenneth T. Mathews

As the weather turns cooler, we snuggle together with our mugs filled with hot cider, preparing ourselves to carve the pumpkin with the face of an unforgotten trick.

Birthdays include:

Joe Oct. 12
Dale Oct. 15
Lou Oct. 22
Christine Oct. 28
Joan Oct. 31
Jack Nov. 3
Pam Nov. 4
Jim Nov. 9

We would like to take a moment to extend our best wishes to two happy couples that are planning weddings. To Ron and Rick and to Lonnie and Bret - we wish you peace, beauty, happiness and love. We don't have definite dates for either nuptial because the engraved invitations have not yet arrived in the mail.

Rumor has it that the Flower City, Kodak Town, will have a new gay bar in the near future. Keep your eyes and ears open to see where the arrow lands. Carol and Henry can hardly wait; already they are roaming around Monroe County looking for a smart place to have a good drink.

I wish I could say I was sorry that I didn't tell you all about events, concerts, dinners, etc. given by area groups, but when one is not informed, one cannot inform, can one? Let me know what you and your organization are up to so we can let over 2500 gay men and women in Western New York, Southern Ontario, Northwestern Pennsylvania, Detroit and parts unknown become

informed so that they, too, can attend your function. Write us at News Briefs, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, NY 14205. Deadline is the 20th of each month.

"Out of the Closet . . . Into the Kitchen," still needs your recipes to be included in the recipe book. The Joy of Gay Cooking will be out as soon as we get enough to make it worthwhile. If you know a good cook, and who doesn't, ask them to send in their favorite dish.

Events for October include:

- Costume Roller Skating Party, Skate Haven, Ridge Road, Lackawanna, 7:30 p.m. Oct. 26, \$3 admission, 50¢ skate rental. Prizes for best costumes.

- Oct. 18 Mattachine meeting features Attorney William Gardner who will be there to answer questions about legal problems of gay couples. The meeting is open to everyone. Potluck supper at 6:30. Meeting at 7:30 at Unitarian Church.

- Gertrude Stein, Gertrude Stein, Gertrude Stein at The Studio Arena Theater Sat. Oct. 24 at 9 p.m. Mattachine has a limited number of \$13.50 tickets available. Play is there Oct. 20-24.

- Gay Professionals banquet on Oct. 23. Call Tom Hammond at 842-2750 for details.

- Remember to vote on Tuesday, Nov. 3rd.

And . . . Happy Halloween . . . Trick AND Treat.

Film at Eleven!

HOTLINE

Continued

Many times after the coming out process is pretty much over, if indeed it ever ends, we usually don't hear from them again. But in a way that is good; for it means we have managed to do our job well, or at least to some degree.

Information Calls

A large number of our calls consist of just telling the caller where the bars are located. These callers may be living in the area and just coming out and have no idea where to go. They may have been out and wonder if there really is a new bar that just opened, or if it is just another rumor.

Travelers from other parts of the country call when they get into town to see just how far wrong the the gay guide is from being accurate. Usually they are quite a ways off. They ask about locations, directions and types of places offered. We do our best to inform them about what we have to offer.

The information given out is not dependent on whether or not a particular bar may advertise with the paper or not. If we know that gays are welcome there, the information is given out.

Information for other cities is also requested. If someone locally is going to be traveling, they want to find out what kind of gay life is offered before they go there. With the gay guides we have, we can usually provide this information.

There are times when we receive long distance calls from people who are thinking of moving to Buffalo or have been transferred here because of their job. They want to know what is happening here and are usually pleased to hear that there is something going on.

Counselors Needed

There is always a need for more trained counselors to help out with the increase of calls. At the present there are approximately 10 people that work the line. This is all done on a volunteer basis. No one is paid for their time.

Due to the lack of office space at this time, and thanks to Ma Bell's call forwarding service, counselors are able to answer the phone in the privacy and comfort of their own home. This is convenient and helps add to the counselor's comfort, too.

The one urgent need at this time is for women to work the hotline. We do receive requests for female counselors and are unable to meet this request. We want to be able to help these callers. If you are interested, please call us.

The Gay Hotline is important. You may have never used it, but if you ask around you will probably find someone that has. If you don't feel you would like to work on it, you can send a contribution to help cover the cost of running the line. We would be grateful for your support.

The hotline is there, when you need it . . . or when someone else does.

Gay Father Symposium Oct 24. in NY City

The Gay Fathers of New York are sponsoring a Symposium on October 24, 1981 on the subject "Gay Fatherhood: The Road Less Traveled." The Symposium will provide a structured opportunity to examine concerns of particular interest to men trying to live comfortably as both parents and Gay men. Anyone with a personal or professional interest in this subject is encouraged to attend.

The registration fee will be \$5 at the door, or \$4 with advance registration. For further information or pre-registration, please call any of the numbers listed below:

(212) 874-0570 (Days)
(212) 874-7727 (Eves)
(212) 580-1146 (Eves)
(212) 865-5380 (Eves)

Or write to the following address:

Gay Fathers of New York
175 Fifth Avenue
Room 1101
New York, N.Y. 10010

— Editor's Edition —

*I Shot an Arrow
Into The Air . . .*

by John A. Faulring, Jr.

. . . and when I looked for it, it wasn't there.

I had planned on skipping this column this month, until the events of Sunday night, October 4th. That was the final night of business for Me And My Arrow.

Everyone PLEASE keep in mind that this column is for MY thoughts and feelings and NOT the official stand of Mattachine or The Fifth Freedom.

This event is one in a continuing line of this type of event. I have not been out in the community of gay bars long, but have seen five and a half closings in this time. The half comes from the closing and re-opening of Mean Alice's as City Lights.

What is the cause of this syndrome? People always complain that we have so few choices, while they have so many. Then when rumors of a new place start, there is great anticipation of a great new bar to go to; different experiences to be had; hopefully new faces and bodies; and, inevitably, rumors that it will never make it open.

WE . . . WE kill a place before it even opens! In "the old days," it was a raid by the cops, vice squad or neighborhood problems that were the cause. Those problems were overcome and it should have been smooth sailing. Wrong!

REVIEW-FAULRING

Continued from page 1

Some of the descriptions are quite erotic and could be set anywhere, but the reality of where they have taken place soon comes back into the picture. After describing a session with one of his fellow medics, Kurt just as matter-of-factly describes how the guy was the subject of a horrible death shortly thereafter. It jars you back into the real world in a hurry.

Kurt's sexual escapades are not the only area covered in the book. We are able to see him grow up due to all the events he describes; from being thrown into a war that he doesn't understand to the death of his mother.

His big thing seems to be seducing those who are "straight" and can't stand "faggots" or "queers". After all everyone knows there are none of "them" in the service! Well, even though there aren't any gays around, he manages to keep busy. What is really pointed out here are the double standards that society applies to homosexuality in all areas of life.

Those he has contact with just do it because there are no women around and when you're horny, you're horny. How often do we hear that one?

We do have to wonder, however, just how many of these episodes took place exactly as described. After all there is the tendency to exaggerate, to a ridiculous degree, our sexual prowess. And, too, all these episodes are described to his best friend and we all know that they believe anything we tell them. There is a tendency to get carried away, especially when we know they can never check out our story.

There are parts of the book where Kurt has to take over the chains of authority when the "real men" in charge either are absent, or screw it up. In these parts we see, perhaps, the real point in this story, and in gays in general. That is the fact that first and foremost we do our jobs. During these times of dire emergency Kurt is not walking around with a perpetual hardon, or cruising everyone that is brought in bloody, in pain or dead. Those things are hardly a turn on.

It would probably be good for many non-gays to read this book and others like it that help show us as human beings, not just sex fiends. But then again that is wishful thinking. It will be hard enough just to get gays to read this book and enjoy it.

Buffalo's gays are a very fickle crew. They bitch and complain about wanting something different and when they get it, they blow it. It seems to be a carry-over of what they have been told all their life, "You're no good, you don't deserve anything nice." They manifest this same attitude in their relationships. They look for variety and when they get it, it wasn't as good as they thought it would be.

The nicer a place gets the shorter amount of time it lasts. By "nicer" I mean the atmosphere, the quality of items served and the help that is hired. This is not to condemn any bar that has lasted for a long period of time and has outlasted all these others. The fault lies with the customers. If you don't appreciate your surroundings and have an ingrained self-hatred, what can anyone else do for you?

The bars that have lasted do one thing very well. That is provide what the gay community asks for and that isn't much.

So Gay Buffalo . . . You Asked For It . . .

The name Me and My Arrow comes from a TV show and record album titled The Point. As far as I am concerned, there is none in this situation.

Good-bye to Arrow . . . and possibly to a great supporter of the gay community in Buffalo. Joseph, I love You!

Being gay from the South, he carries a lot of his prejudices along with him as far as race, sex and sexual preference are concerned. He has derogatory names for all those that are not just like him because of ethnic background; natural physical equipment and who they choose to bed. But then isn't that so much like all of us? If gays would just stop ripping those apart that are in the same boat as we are, who would the Majority be then?

His own sexual preference is influenced in that he chooses to bed only those who are not gay. In that way he can rationalize, as they do in their own way, that he is not gay and, thusly, all is well. Just as many in the gay communities choose only those who adopt the ultra macho, jock, all-man images of what society sees as being what a man is all about.

I am not into war stories, or this type of book very much at all, and yet, once I started it, I couldn't put it down. It is very interesting and does raise many questions about war, relationships, homosexuality, people and any other subject you can think of.

Kurt "picked the bullets up" with bodies attached. He picked up parts of people and their lives and from it came a man. A REAL MAN!

Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance in Albany Oct. 18

The New York State Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance will meet Oct. 18 at the Gay Community Center in Albany. Brunch from noon to 1 p.m. will be followed by a business meeting from 1-4.

To attend, write the New York State Lesbian & Gay Political Alliance c/o C.D.G.C.C., Inc., P.O. Box 131, Albany, New York, 12201. Or, call the Gay Community Center in Albany at 518-462-6138 (evenings, 7-11 p.m.). Write or call by Oct. 9. Note the name of your organization and the name, address and phone numbers of your member attending. Overnight accommodations and rides from train and bus stations can be arranged.

For further information, contact Richard May (Brooklyn) at 212-858-3509 or Gary Pavlic (Albany) at 518-785-0065.

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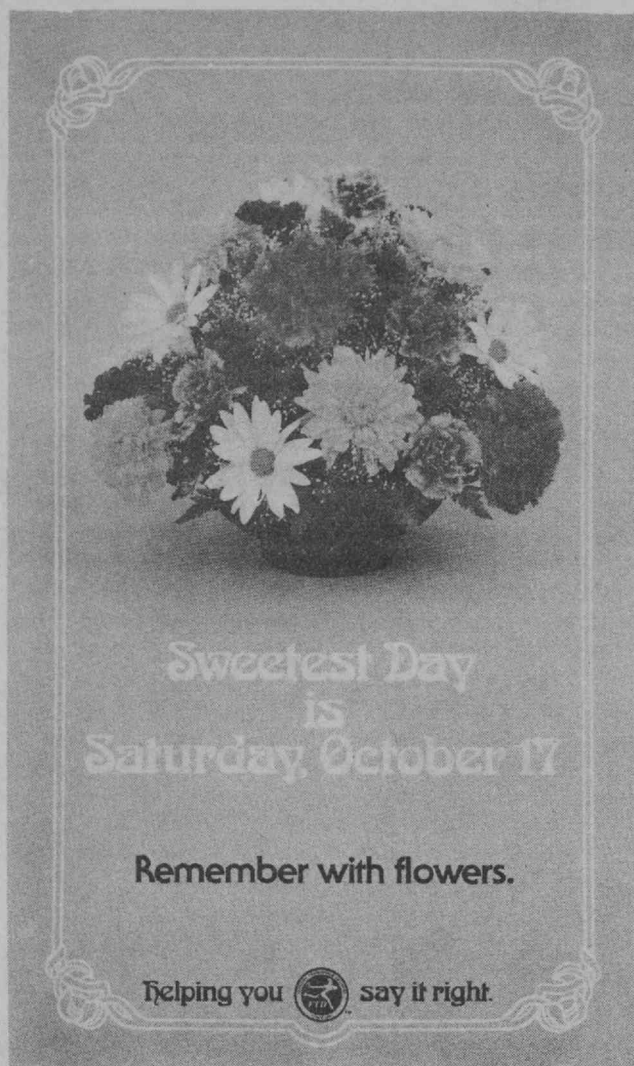
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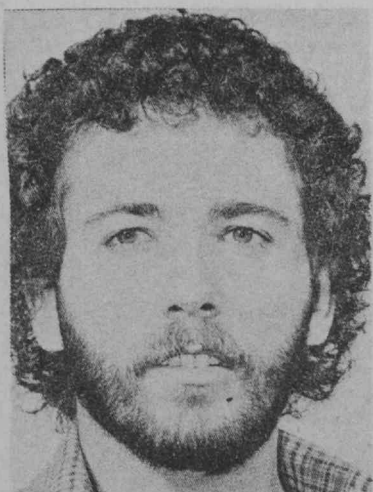


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SElections by Sam

'Anti Gay' Apparently Does Not Exist

by Sam

... Later. My use of this space last month consisted of my ventilating some reactions to a summer vacation in Provincetown with the indication there would be "more later." Well, it is "later."

The strongest impression I received during that good week, and one that continues to bother me, runs counter to ideas and attitudes I have held for a long time. Perhaps the books, research articles, and newspaper and magazine stories have given me a distorted image about what it means to be homosexual in contemporary American society. Many of those sources cite overt discrimination and even oppression as part of many lesbian and gay persons' experiences. Up until now I have accepted as factual the accounts found in biographies and poetry written by and about my lesbian/gay sisters and brothers. Maybe even some of my personal history was less valid that I have thought it to be. It must have been that our personal perceptions were colored by healthy cases of paranoia or some sort of martyr complex.

Accounts of the Stonewall Riots themselves must have been exaggerated. The anti-gay crusade waged by a former fruit saleswoman must have been an example of journalism hype. Even the pictures on television, in news magazines and newspapers about the reaction to the Dan White verdict in San Francisco must somehow have been staged. Recent bath house raids were probably also really the product of an overactive imagination. Indeed, much of the "review of gay news" in *The Advocate* should be properly billed as fiction. Etc., etc., etc.

It is personally embarrassing to realize just how effectively I have been misled. My very writing this column has to some extent been based on the premise that we and our brothers and sisters have been the scapegoats and targets of non-gays in many instances. The first inklings that I might have been wrong in my assessment took place right here on the Niagara Frontier, but the real brunt of the truth hit me during and after the recent trip to P'town.

I have quite thoroughly enjoyed the numerous experiences of being in social environments apparently in the company of many lesbian and gay women and men. To be in the bars on a Saturday night and seeing open same-sex hand holding, hugging, dancing, necking, kissing, petting, and

good old-fashioned groping does tend to exorcise some of the voyeur in me. On another level it continues to amaze me that there are all these gay people right where I am, while in earlier years I was sure that my attraction to other males was singularly unique. It is in seeing all these people — even discounting the few non-gays who may be on the premises — that I now realize my negative impressions were erroneous.

At various places that gay people frequent I have met professional colleagues, community leaders, service personnel, persons in both the private and public sectors of employment. I have been introduced to newspaper reporters, accountants, public school teachers, men and women "of the cloth", mechanics, landscapers, etc. (and strangely less than a dozen haridressers, interior decorators, and models). Such encounters verified for me statements like "we are everywhere," "there is something between 10 and 16 percent of the American population which is homosexual," and "someone in your life is gay."

It now strikes me as nearly incomprehensible to imagine that these persons I have met representing hundreds of thousands of others are oppressed, discriminated against, and generally accorded second class status because of their sexual orientation or choice of affectional partner. Surely if repression touched very many of their lives, there would be regular and loud protest and recrimination. Their sheer numbers would cause the rest of society to take note, and begin to offer redress. Anti-gay rumblings and defeat of pro-gay legislation would be non-existent.

No, I am not faulting my brothers and sisters for having the fun associated with the bar and dancing scene. I enjoy that too. But how do they manage to leave their "gayness" in our gathering places and outwardly remain utterly silent? We could be a power to be reckoned with — witness recent articles about the political involvement of the Houston gay community.

We gays do have allies in the non-gay population who are often more actively pro-gay than most of us. They have just as much to lose as many of us think we do. In point of fact, we have much more to gain. We stand to gain the joy of living as whole people.!

Letters

Continued from page 2

An Open Letter

We are in the final weeks of the political season — the weeks when candidates with money purchase billboards and expensive mail; the weeks when candidates like myself try instead to meet even more people to discuss issues. My opponent, in his quest for publicity, has decided to rely on a traditional tactic — scapegoating.

In recent newspaper articles, William Marcy has chosen male prostitution as his favorite theme, going so far as to testify in court that even he had been solicited. Whether his sworn statement is valid or not is ultimately irrelevant — the crime problems in Allentown cannot be dismissed as male prostitution, and the source of the problems cannot be implied to be the sole responsibility of the gay community. We — the residents, businessmen, patrons of Allentown — we are the victims, and within this group of victims are many gay homeowners, businessmen and patrons.

Some months ago I publicly stated my opponent might use volatile, emotional themes such as homosexuality, prostitution and personal inactivity as campaign tactics. Unfortunately, I was right.

My position is as it always was. To scapegoat any group — gays, women, blacks, Puerto Ricans, Jews, etc. — is reprehensible. To scapegoat is the technique of the politician with no comprehension of the real problems, no sense of the real issues, and no ability to formulate solutions.

The problems are PROSTITUTION, ARSON, BURGLARY, ASSAULT — and these are not initiated by any single group except CRIMINALS. To choose a group or individual on the basis of lifestyle or any other non-objective criteria and use that to identify the real problems is to wrongfully define the innocent victim as the criminal.

In the near future I will be holding a press conference on crime, discussing a 13 point program that addresses how to work more closely with the police, how to approach the prostitution problem and how to increase neighborhood security. I have no intention of blaming anyone except Marcy for his 4 years of disinterest in facing growing crime problems, and I have very intention of *not* laying the responsibility for solutions on the state. I will instead discuss what I consider to be workable alternatives to crime, and pledge my efforts to that end.

Hope Hoetzer

—How Does Your Garden Grow—

Fall Planting Means Beautiful Spring Affair

by Bill Hardy

Hello everyone, and a ostentatiously or al October to you all! Yes, it's that time of year when thoughts turn from warm summer days at the beach to blazingly colorful trees and cute furry squirrels busy looking wherever they can, for nuts. Likewise, many a blazingly colorful acquaintance can be seen running around looking for nuts, furry or not, wherever they can.

Now is the time to begin planning next year's flower garden. "Egads," you say, "The frost is hardly on the pumpkins and he already has us into next year's garden." You could say that, but if you want a nice splash of color as soon as the snows go, now is the time to do it. I am of, course, referring to the planting of bulbs. Tulips, daffodils, hyacinths and crocus are probably the best known of the spring bloomers, but I've a few friends whose bloomers are constantly well known, spring or not. Yesiree!

Tulips can be planted to create a continuous bloom from late March through to early June. The dwarf botanical type tulips, as they are called, bloom the earliest, usually late March or very early April. The May-flowering parrot and peony types will take you clear to June with many other types to fill April and May. Out at the nursery, we have a couple hundred different tulip varieties.

Hyacinths, with their wonderful fragrance in April, daffodils with their brilliant yellow, orange, white and combinations thereof blooms, and crocus for their very early blossoms all give any spring garden a colorful burst. But there are many other lesser-known spring flowering bulbs that equal, if not surpass, the better-known types in their beauty.

Eranthus, or winter aconite, blooms a brilliant yellow in March, and is only 4" high. Iris reticulata grows 4-6" tall and forms, in time, large masses of blue, purple, white or yellow blooms in March, usually before the crocus. Both of these are great for rock gardens.

Another variety of iris grown from a bulb is Dutch Iris. They bloom May to June, grow to about 20" and produce spectacular blossoms of yellow, white and blue and combinations of those colors. They fill quite nicely that time after your other spring bulbs have faded and before your annuals obtain nice color.

From the allium family, of which onions, garlic and chives are all members, comes a spectacular June blooming bulb. *Alium giganteum* produces a 5 foot stem topped by a 6-8" round purple flower head looking for all the world like a giant chive. Several other allium varieties, smaller in size, produce various colored flowers from May to July, depending on type.

When planting bulbs in the fall it's very beneficial to add some bone meal to each bulb. Simply place some in the bottom of the hole mixed with a little soil, and then place the bulb. Bone meal is finely ground bone, contains phosphorous and is a wonderful root inducer. The forming plant will better survive the winter and the flowers next spring will be stronger and healthier.

If you haven't anywhere outdoors to grow bulbs, don't fret. Virtually any spring flowering bulb can be forced to bloom indoors.

First arrange as many bulbs in a pot or other suitable well-drained container as will comfortably fit without touching each other or the sides of the container. A very light, loose, well-drained soil should be used. The tips of the bulbs should be just beneath the soil surface. The bulbs should now be encouraged to grow strong root systems before growing upward. This is achieved by keeping them in a 40-50 degree F temperature for at least 12 weeks. If you have no area in the house to meet these requirements, shift and shuffle your Miracle Whip, Diet Rite and next Sunday's rump roast in your refrigerator, and put the pots in there. Put saucers under them, as they must be watered regularly, even in the fridge, and you don't want mud in your mousse! After a good root system has developed and about 2" of top growth shows, move them into a semi-dark area where temperatures are about 60 degrees. After a week they can be moved to full light. The flowers will bloom in a few weeks. They will also keep longer at a temperature of 65 degrees, and regular watering is essential. Planting up to a pot of bulbs every two weeks would give you a succession of continuous bloom in those long winter months that lie ahead.

So go on a crash diet to make room in your refrigerator, and until next month, here's hoping your Halloween tricks are good, and their treats just as tasty!

Mattachine's Lawsuit Update

This is an update on the Federal lawsuit Mattachine has filed to have the New York State anti-loitering law declared unconstitutional.

On September 2, there was a motion filed in Federal court to add a member of the gay community to the suit that had actually been arrested under the statute. Attorney Bill Gardner feels that it will strengthen the case by adding someone to the lawsuit that has actually suffered with being arrested, spending time in the holding center, being fingerprinted and photographed.

He was added under an alias, Richard Roe, to cause fewer problems for him in his private life. All the other names on the lawsuit are real names and are that way because these people have not been arrested under the law. If the case is lost there can be no repercussions towards those listed as plaintiffs. (At lease from a legal standpoint.)

The additional papers also ask that even if the suit is dismissed because the law is not found to be unconstitutional under the United States Constitution, his (and our) rights of liberty or property without due process; free speech; peaceable assembly; equal protection under the laws and the right to privacy under certain respects, all are fully protected under the New York Constitution as well.

Roe was arrested last September in La-Salle park when he was talking to someone who turned out to be a Buffalo Police Vice cop. That is in direct contradiction to Capt. Kenneth Kennedy's statements to the press stating that his men never have posed as gays.

The local courts repeatedly refused to rule as to the constitutionality of the law. This forced the filing of the Federal Court suit. They dismissed charges and took many other actions to avoid having to rule on the legality of this statute.

Roe joined the suit because he is aware that any time, in any bar or other situation, he could be arrested again for the same reason. He hopes to avoid such a problem in the future by joining in the Mattachine suit.

The only way he could otherwise avoid being arrested is by limiting his right of free speech and by not exercising his right to free assembly as provided for by both the state and federal constitutions.

In addition to adding Roe as a plaintiff, papers were filed in answer to our original claim. In those papers Attorney Gardner has answered all the "reasons" the law officials gave to back up their claim that the suit should be dismissed.

Continued on page 10

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Buffalo Buns Contest Starts

Buffalo Buns is a new contest that the Fifth Freedom is going to be running for the next few months. There will be prizes for the best buns in town.

To enter send a picture of your favorite buns, no hamburger, hot dog or wecks need apply, either in or out of clothes. They must be in good taste and not show anything else attached to the body. There can be accessories, but the bun's the thing.

Photos are not returnable unless you send a stamped self-addressed envelope along. There has to be sufficient postage, too.

We will run the photos we receive and you will be able to vote for your favorite. There will be no names given, so you can send in The Unknown Buns and still be a winner. Just remember to include who you are, so you can get the great prizes offered to the winner.

The prizes include a Buns calendar and book. There may be more coming.

So if The Villa's ad has inspired you . . . go to it and see what your imagination can come up with.

The photos will run in the December issue and the winner will be announced in the January 1982 issue. So we need to receive your entries by November 20 or they won't count.

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The Fifth Freedom Advisor

Gay Marriages and Gay Dress Codes Discussed

THE FIFTH FREEDOM ADVISOR provides answers to questions about sex and gay life. Send questions to FIFTH FREEDOM ADVISOR, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, N.Y. 14205. For immediate help in talking about a gay problem, call the Gay Hotline at 881-5335.

Dear FFA,

Four weeks ago I met my mister right, the hankie in the back pocket or keys and I have never been so much in love in my entire life. We share similar backgrounds, interests, desires and are very compatible sexually. He is moving in with me, and we have decided that we both want a wedding with an exchange of rings as a public declaration of both our love and desire to live our lives as lovers and friends. Here is where we seem to be getting into some problem areas. The first thing I have noticed is the desirability of each of us to other people. Another problem is having people say that it can't be "love" so fast and living together and marriage so soon are a big mistake. I don't understand why these people feel this way. It seems to be OK when they fall "in love" or move in with someone, why not me? How can I convince my friends they are wrong? I would appreciate your help.

Answer:

The question of whether or not "it's love" has been around for a long, long time. Since there is no clear cut definition of love, only you can decide on your own true feelings. Try to be patient with your friends, they are concerned for your happiness and don't want to see you get hurt. It also sounds like they might be voicing their own fears about relationships. When someone tells you to slow down and voices disapproval toward your plans to live together and to get "married", they may be voicing their own fears and doubts about commitment to another person. Fear of commitment is not limited to gay men and women, but to everyone. Gay or straight, young or old.

Gay marriage is a subject that stirs up controversy whenever it comes up. One of the definitions that are given in Webster's dictionary for the word marriage is, *The state of being married or being united to a person of the opposite sex.* While gay marriages are not to persons of the opposite sex, they can still be a "uniting" of two people as one. A commitment to love, share and grow together for the rest of their lives. For some men and women, a marriage ceremony represents the formal beginning of a relationship. The ceremony carries no weight of law, but it can certainly be just as meaningful to the two people involved. It is a public declaration of both love and commitment — "a uniting."

The other question you raise in your letter is about your sudden desirability to others. It's a lot like an auction. You don't really notice an article until someone else bids on it. While people are not furniture at an auction the principle is the same. When people see you happy they may suddenly be aware of how unhappy they are with their own lives. Others will look at your happiness with jealousy. People who are unhappy with their own lives are the first ones to throw stones at those who have found happiness. Beware of these people! They would enjoy seeing your happiness destroyed, it would reinforce their reasons for being unhappy.

If you love each other and want to live together in a "marriage" — do it!!!! You must live your own lives and find your own happiness. Love is something very special. When it does happen it must be held very close and protected so that it can grow into a lifetime.

Dear FFA,

I have noticed that more and more teenage boys are having their ears pierced. I had always thought that a pierced ear was a visible symbol of being gay, much like

Answer:

For thousands of years men have had various parts of their bodies pierced. (Some of the areas include the ears, nose, foreskin of the penis, glans and, of course, the nipples.) While some gay men do have their ear pierced, the fact that a man's ear is pierced is NOT a sign that he is a homosexual. Many teenagers are having their ear pierced as a form of rebellion, not as a sign of sexual preference.

Handkies hanging from the back pocket MIGHT be a sign of sexual activity or they might be just a colorful touch worn with jeans. As far as keys hanging from a belt, don't be too quick to decide on this one either. I sometimes keep my keys on my belt because my pants are too tight to get them in my pocket. Each of these signs, at a gay bar, are probably a sign of sexual preference but to play it safe I would recommend you come right out and ask, it could save a lot of difficulty later on in the evening.

M.C. Compton's Buffalo's Newest Bar

by Rod Hensel

A new bar has been added to the gay scene in Buffalo — one that is hoping to attract a mix of both guys and gals as its main clientele.

The name is M.C. Compton's and its located at 1239 Niagara Street near Breckentridge. The first night of business was on Sept. 27.

The bar sports a modern and luxurious (but not plush) decor, done in shades of black, white, gray and light blue. The bar consists of two rooms connected by a short hallway.

The front room at the entrance features a sit-down bar with table seating for about 40 people. The back room has table seating also, as well as carpeted benches and a high stand-up bar that separates the main room from a game room area.

The stand out feature of the club is the dance floor and sound system, which many first night patrons described as "excellent." The light show on the dance floor is well designed to accomodate the six of fast and slow music that alternates throughout the evening.

The bar had planned to open a year ago, but was the victim of an arson attack on Oct. 3, 1980. Determined to go ahead with their plans, the owners had to start over from scratch in the rebuilding process. A hand out passed out to patrons on the first night stresses that it wants to be a gay bar for both men and women, noting that, "it's been a long time since buffalo really had one like it."

The management is now putting together plans for a "Happy Hour" and special drink feature nights, and will allow regular patrons to sign up for a "confidential" mailing list that keeps everyone informed of special events planned.

Parking is available all around the bar at businesses closed at night. The area around the bar is well-lit so safety should not be a concern.

The owners of M.C. Compton's are inviting people to "relax, enjoy, feel at home and be sure to come back."

Out and About

A Chorus Line Dance Ten, Looks Three

by Hanford Searl

A Chorus Line
Shea's Buffalo Theatre
September 22

Tickets: \$10-\$17 (Harvey & Corky Productions)

Rating: Three Bells

Oke.

So, almost each and everyone of us out there is knowledgeable about "A Chorus Line" being this superior musical study about gypsies, the inside term for any dancer anywhere in this world.

It's won Tony's on Broadway, copped a Pulitzer and is undergoing serious, prolonged adaptation difficulties to the slick Hollywood screen.

And composer Marvin Hamlisch may never top this, his best-ever Great White Way score, which in and of itself is the actual star to the entire two-hour plus show.

But for we Buffalonians, (not named after the one-time prairie-grazing bison as is universally thought . . . but is French for "Beautiful River," namely the Niagara) have a vested interest since Michael Bennett, who conceived, choreographed and directed "Line," is from the "Queen City."

Certainly readers should readily know these factual tidbits being Western New Yorkers unless you've been living in Iran for the last 10 years, no doubt a worse place than Mars.

And, no doubt, we're all aware that there have been numerous national touring groups sent out hither and yon to spread the impact and financial success of Bennett's creation.

Well, the cast and crew, which made its way back to the Niagara Frontier for this, "Line's" encore engagement since spring of 1980, was a mostly young, energetic, but inexperienced troupe when compared to the original New York company *moi* saw in Los Angeles during the summer of 1977.

Now, it may be unfair to compare both groups, but that's show biz, a foundation from which to spring and measure quality as well as staying power.

As evidenced opening night, the body (hmm?) of the work survives nicely while the interpretation, thanks to casting, was disappointingly mechanical, forced and average except for the only two, original New York production member. Donn Simone was Zach, the pivotal main character choreographer, and Lois Englund played Val, the " Tits and Ass" gal.

These two were solid conveyers, adding necessary nuances and depth to their respective roles with Ms. Englund, of the TV commercial spot for "Line," by far tops with her raspy, almost over-played bit.

When she sang the lyrics about visiting the "wizard at Park and 73rd," the near SRO audience could easily visualize her swinging into that office eagerly awaiting the additions to her "orchestra and balcony."

Throughout, she made Val appear real, lovable, genuine in dealing with the pressures of auditioning and relating to her fellow linemen. (Yes, there are other types of linemen, just as athletic as pro-footballers, Virginia!) Too bad Bennett also didn't rewrite and update her role similar to other updated passages in the musical-drama.

Simone, with much more of a role than Ms. Englund, provided a no-nonsense approach to his character, dealing out evaluations and judgements to each competing dancer. He also displayed a hint of a human quality when confronting personal feelings about former girlfriend/auditioner Cassie, played by Leslie Woodies.

Ms. Woodies seemed totally out-of-her league in recreating the role which propelled Donna McKenchzie into instant stardom and Bennett's life as his eventual

wife. Her potential show-stopping "The Music and the Mirror" fell far short of its artistic power coupled with her medicore, non-acting.

Wayne Meledandri, as Paul, the former drag show dancer, possessed surprising depth for an intern from Carnegie-Mellon University and should have established credentials after this touring cast run.

A Pittsburgh native, Meledandri's Paul was both real, defiant and a survivor, believable in changing his name from a Puerto-Rican background to Italian all for the success of his career.

Still, the most poignant moment in "Line," Paul's statement about his father saying, "Take care of my son," after his parents accidentally catch his drag show act, provides dramatic power that even hushed Shea's SRO, opening night crowd, which during Paul's and Bobby's earlier remarks about being gay, caused some squirming.

For you trivia kids, Bobby as portrayed by San Piperato here, is the tall, dark-haired good-looking number that issues Bennett's loving (?) poke at the city about committing suicide in Buffalo as being redundant.

The Chamber of Commerce and the "Talking Proud" campaign will be glad to note mostly a healthy, non-paranoid laughter erupted from some sections, rather than stone silence or resulting boo's.

Jan Leigh Herndon's Shelia was perfect, throwing attitude every which way her blazing red hair would allow as one of the older, wiser auditioneers. Her best contribution occurred during the melancholy "At The Ballet" number.

The role of Moralis, the tough, lovable female PR dancer, was disappointing with Roxan Caballero's surface treatment, especially with both her solo effort on "Nothing" and the show's best-known melody, "What I Did For Love."

Amongst the entire 28-member cast, which is trimmed down earlier on to the 17 final contenders for the meat of the audition, the only other standouts besides the above-mentioned characters were muscular Kevin Blair as Mike on "I Can Do That" and Christopher Gregory as Mark, the seemingly dumb, all-American kid from Arizona, eager, willing and able to become a Broadway gypsy.

(For you trivia buffs again, guess who played the original role of Mike and who he's married to right now? Find the answer at the review's end.)

Bennett's staging, still a refreshing, precedent-setting design, is best during some of the entire company's production numbers, namely "I Hope I Get It," "At The Ballet" and "Hello Twelve, Hello Thirteen, Hello Love."

His blocking, group flow and segmented slashing is a wonder to the eye and heightens the dramatic sensibility despite the young, inexperienced cast. It acts as a second, solid, unsinkable buoy to Hamlisch's memorable score.

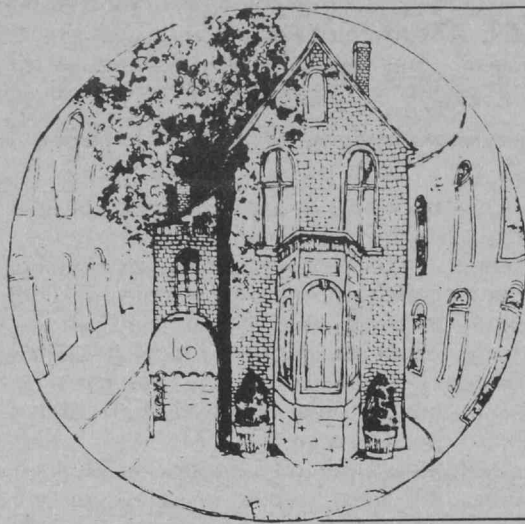
Tharon Musser's lighting was a problem at times, reflecting Shea's front row balcony tiers off the rear mirror drop and into the eyes of the orchestra section.

Robert Thomas and the 13-member orchestra added admirable accompaniment to the vocally-weak cast, while Abe Jacob's sound found the goings rough at Shea's; a long-overdue, widely-known detriment to most events staged within the theatre's venerable core.

For, "A Chorus Line" itself, stands alone amongst the years of smash Broadway plays, musical and innovative pieces, remaining the most viable, current-affairs emotion-charging vehicle in American Theatre history.

Near the show's finale, Shelia adroitly states, "Everybody in the whole country

Continued on page 10



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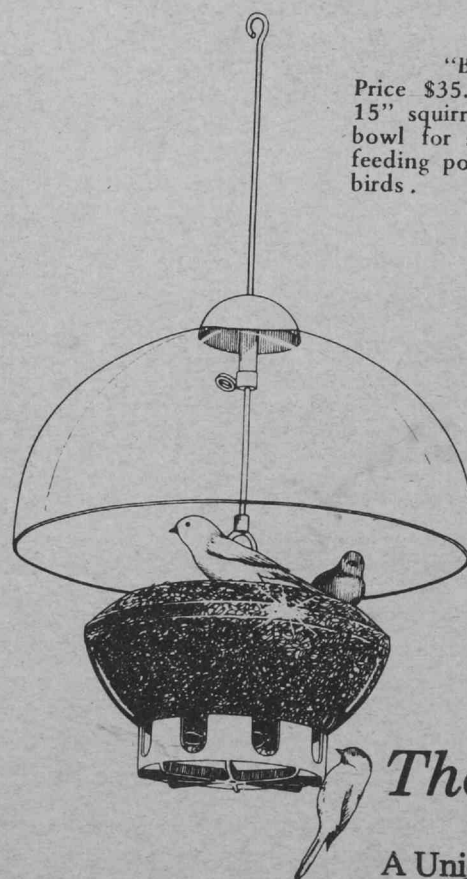
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— Captain Kink

Of Human Bondage: Nice and Easy Does It

by Captain Kink

Presuming one wishes to be a victim, or victimize someone in a bondage scene, where does one begin? Follow these hints and you are "bound" to have a good time.

Start with the hands, which for basic intro to bondage is all you really need. Rope is sufficient, in any material, although natural fibers are so chic and hemp leaves delicious rope burns on the wrist after a good struggle. For the more genteel, silk scarves may be substituted. The hands may be tied behind the back if the victim is to do any moving around. Grovelling is so much easier this way. They may be tied up over his head if he is to be attached to a pole or beam for, say, a flogging. If bed play is all that is envisioned, one hand may be fastened to each bed post. Some men find the struggle erotic and, therefore, prefer a little slack, while others want to be totally restrained. Control is important, but the first rule of etiquette in bondage is that it should be pleasurable for both. For the more advanced, leather shackles are available in regular or fur lined, for about \$25 in Toronto or N.Y.C. Handcuffs can be found in Buffalo for between \$5 and \$15. Shackles add an aura of danger and professionalism to one's dungeon, but handcuffs make a divine fashion statement when hung on one's belt.

After the hands are bound, you may move onto the feet. Feet may be tied together, but standard practice is to spread them apart for easier access to the cock and ass.

Leg spreaders are shackles that fasten to the ankles or thighs with an expandable steel rod connecting them. The rod may be locked into place at the desirable width. Ankle restraints are leather straps that

buckle on, with rings that may be attached to other equipment.

Now that the body is securely bound, hand and foot, what comes next? Blindfolds are quite popular. You can use that red or blue hanky in your pocket (or gray or black or yellow . . .). For the real aficionado, leather blindfolds with padded eye protectors are available. With a blindfold the element of surprise is heightened. He cannot tell where you are coming from, which increases his feelings of powerlessness. This is especially useful for tickling, whipping, or dripping hot wax.

If you want to use the mouth, a gag may not be a good idea, but they are great for eliminating those annoying screams and pleadings. Those hankies come in handy for this too, but you may first wish to shove a dirty sock or jock strap in the mouth. This has a twofold purpose. It is offensive and humiliating to the victim, but also protects him from biting his tongue during rough play. For that last reason, ball gags are also popular. They consist of a rubber ball that fits behind the teeth connected to leather traps that tie around the head. If you want to restrict speech, but still utilize the mouth, there are open gags which hold the mouth open. A cock will fit nicely, safe from sharp teeth, and the mouth can be used as a urinal. Yumm.

Hands, feet, eyes, and mouth cover the basics, but for a truly thrilling bondage scene, it is the options that count. Tit clamps are the favorite. They come in varying degrees of intensity from "ouch" to "ouch ouch" to "o my god, you're killing me." For beginners clothespins are useful. Let me caution you on the use of alligator clips. If they are not rubber tipped they can pierce the skin and lead to infection.

Of course, what would "whips and chains" be without whips? The most popular style is the cat-o-nine-tails. Used properly, it leaves barely perceptible marks but can cause excruciating pain. Riding crops are also quite versatile. Besides being great for flogging, some can also be used as dildoes. This is more akin to S&M than bondage, but if done with restraint it can be amusing.

For causing discomfort to the ass while you work on other parts of the body there are some nifty inventions. The ass-spreader spreads the cheeks of the ass to cause ag-

ony or to allow easier penetration. A butt plug fills the ass and can be strapped in place and left there.

Lastly, for the truly fashionable bondage aficionado, leather hoods may be worn. They cover the entire head except for the nose, with removeable eye and mouth guards and rings thaah can be attached to other equipment. Tres chic.

I hope these tips are useful in obtaining a more meaningful relationship, but remember, once you are trussed up, you can't get out so please be careful.

A Chorus Line . . .

Continued from page 9

wants to be a goddamn star," closely followed by a barrage of everyday, common feelings we all share with the competing dancers voicing concerns about security, life on a one-day-at-a-time basis, paying bills, dreaming dreams, aging, achieving goals, choosing related and/or alternative fields just prior to the re-affirming "What I Did For Love" theme.

Thus, we see the uncompromising dance mirror catches our true reflections as well as the dancers. We're watching them as well as ourselves. We learn that while we may be lonely, we're not alone. We are all in the "Chorus Line" of life.

(Don Corea played the original Mike and is now married to Sandy Duncan, formerly Broadway's "Peter Pan," Neil Simon's "Star Spangled Girl" and Triscut's TV girl.)

Upcoming concerts, events and places-to-see:

Harvey & Corky Productions: Oct. 10, Electric Light Orchestra and Meat Loaf's Ellen Foley, the Aud, 8 p.m., \$8.50 and \$9.50; Oct. 28 Nazareth, Joe Perry Project, and Vic Vergat, Shea's Buffalo, 7:30 p.m., \$8.50 and \$9.50; Nov. 3-8, Neil Simon's "They're Playing Our Song," Shea's Buffalo, 8 p.m. Tues.-Fri., 6 and 10 p.m., Sat. and 2 and 7 p.m. Sun., \$10-\$17.

Harvey, Corky & Tice Productions: (Melody Fair), Oct. 18, Roy Clark, 4:30 and 7:45 p.m., \$9.75 and \$10.75.

Festival East: Oct. 16, "The Vicious Circle," a premiere New Wave Ballet with The Empire State Ballet and New Wave bands, Central Terminal Plaza (old train station), 9 p.m., \$7.50 in advance; Oct. 16, Foreigner and Billy Squire, the Aud, 8 p.m., \$10 and \$11; Oct. 25, Devo, Shea's Buffalo, 8 p.m., \$8 and \$9; Oct. 27, The Pretenders, Shea's Buffalo, 8 p.m., \$8.50 and \$9.50; Oct. 31, The Moody Blues, the

Aud, 8 p.m., \$10 and \$12; Oct. 31, George Carlin, Kleinhans Music Hall, 8 p.m., \$10.50 and \$13.

The Buffalo Philharmonic: Oct. 10, Rita Moreno, 8:30 p.m., \$6.50, \$7.50 and \$8.50; Oct. 16, Ella Fitzgerald, 8:30 p.m., \$12.50/\$18.50, \$25 and \$50, the latter includes a reception at the Statler Hotel with Ms. Fitzgerald; Oct. 17 and 20, conductor Jorge Mester and pianist John Browning playing Schuman, Mozart and Prokofiev, 8:30 p.m., \$4.50, \$7, \$8.50 and \$10.50; Nov. 7, conductor Julius Rudel and the BPO do Wagner, Samuel, Ravel and Shostakovich, 8:30 p.m., \$4.50-\$10.50.

Benjamin's Art Gallery: at 419 Elmwood Ave., William Porterfield, photographic exhibit through Oct. 30; Lebadang, printmaker and lithographer, tentatively set for the first two weeks in November; plus the regular collection here and at Benjamin's Galerie at 427 Elmwood Ave. which includes Agan, Barnet, Dali and Vasarely. Open Mon.-Sat., 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sundays 1-5 p.m.

Niagara Falls/USA: Turtle, Native American Center for the Living Arts, 25 Rainbow Mall. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues.-Fri., noon-5 p.m., Sat. and Sun. \$3. American Indian artwork, museum, films and talks.

Wintergarden: in the Rainbow Mall on Rainbow Blvd. across from the Turtle. Open daily, 10 a.m.-11 p.m., **Free.** A super, glass-enclosed, multi-structure with a wide variety of plants, trees and botanical growth in and around walkways, elevators, benches, an amphitheatre and fountains. Patrolling security.

Aquarium of Niagara Falls: 701 Whirlpool St., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Sun.-Sat., \$4.50, includes an hourly dolphin show, touch tank, exhibits and out-doors sea lion pool.

Lawsuit . . .

Continued from page 7

Some of these are: claiming they cannot adequately represent all law officials that might enforce this law; which is part of the suit.

Gardner has demanded that they show "what criteria, factors, circumstances or other identifying information" the police have used to arrest the "small class of persons who violate the terms of the statute." In addition, he asks for any guidelines or memorandums that have been issued specifying the manner in which the law should be enforced. He also asks for such information that may have applied to the Consensual Sodomy Statute.

It also seeks to know if the police have indeed posed as gays in any public place for the purpose of arresting someone under these statutes. This includes public parks, streets, gay bars and any other public places gays might congregate.

Documentation is also requested as to the application of the Loitering Statute as far as female prostitutes are concerned. And if there have been such arrests, proof is asked as for of numbers of female prostitutes vs. the number of male suspected homosexuals. This is so we can substantiate our claim that the law has been unjustly applied toward gay males.

The documentation is asked for the last five years, so it will not just cover a narrow time frame and will be more relevant to the case. Because the Consensual Sodomy Statute preceded the Loitering Law, docu-

mentation is also requested regarding the same information, so that a clear picture can be formed as to the type of enforcement that has taken place.

The subject of photographic surveillance and the taking of license plate numbers of cars in the vicinity of gay establishments are also addressed. Any instances of this type of activity are to be reported to the court.

Captain Kennedy is also asked to back up statements attributed to him in an article in the Buffalo News stating that "swarms" of suspected homosexuals have descended on neighborhoods to "recruit, procure and pimp" young boys as street prostitutes. He must produce records to prove these claims. The number, location and details of such cases are requested.

The burden of proof is placed on the police department to prove that any of these instances were indeed gay males doing this activity or just "adult, non-homosexual criminals involved in money-making criminal activities?"

Our Cover: Gay Hotline Poster

The cover this month is a reproduction of the poster for the Gay Hotline that can be seen around the area. Our feature story tells of some of the services offered by the staff, how you can join the counselors and the types of calls we receive. We hope you find it informative.

The Gay Engagement Calendar 1982

THE GAY ENGAGEMENT CALENDAR 1982 by MARTIN GREIF

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The Fifth Freedom's

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INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE

THE GAY HOTLINE: 881-5335. Counseling help with gay life, information on the gay community. Staffed by trained volunteers of the Mattachine Society. Hours: 6 to 10 p.m. daily; all day on Friday.

SUNSHINE HOUSE CRISIS INTERVENTION CENTER: 831-3646. Assists persons having emotional, family and drug related problems. Emergency outreach services, information and referral. Emergency overnight housing. Open 24 hours-a-day, seven days-a-week.

PUBLICATIONS

THE FIFTH FREEDOM, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Tel: 881-5335. Volunteers needed to work on paper, including writers, artists, graphics people and photographers. Press releases, public notices and articles for publication may be submitted to the above address. Published the first week of each month. Advertising rates on request.

ORGANIZATIONS

MATTACHINE SOCIETY OF THE NIAGARA FRONTIER, P.O. Box 155, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Tel: 881-5335. Meetings held first and third Sundays of each month, Unitarian Universalist Church, Elmwood at West Ferry. Pot luck supper at 6:30 p.m. Meeting at 7:30 p.m. All welcome.

GAY PROFESSIONALS, P.O. Box 624, Buffalo, New York 14209. Tel: Tom Hammond, 842-2750. An organization to provide support for gay people in the professions and those who seek a confidential place to meet new friends. Open to all gay men and women.

A.A. FOR GAY MEN AND WOMEN, Tel: 853-0388. Meets twice-a-week: Wednesday at 8:30 p.m., Shoreline Apts., 210 Niagara; Fridays, 8:30 p.m., Ascension Church, corner Linwood and North. For phone contact, call above number and ask for a member of the gay group, or write: Open Mind Group, P.O. Box 395, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205.

STUDENT ASSOCIATION FOR GAY EXPRESSION (SAGE), 118 Cassety Hall, State University College at Buffalo, 1300 Elmwood Ave. Tel: 878-6316. Organization for gay men and women at Buffalo State College. Office hours Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Business meetings, Wednesday Noon to 2 p.m.

GAY RIGHTS FOR OLDER WOMEN, Tel: 836-8970. Contact the Emma Bookstore at the above telephone number for additional details.

GAY PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE (GPA), 311 Squire Hall, State University of New York at Buffalo, 3435 Main St. Office hours Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Sponsors coffee house each Friday at 9 p.m. in 107 Townsend Hall (when school is in session). Formerly the Gay Liberation Front.

U.B. MEN'S CENTER, 211 Townsend Hall, State University of New York at Buffalo, 3435 Main Street. A drop-in center for all gay, bi-sexual and straight men. The center is open Monday-Friday from Noon to 5 p.m.

DIGNITY/BUFFALO, P.O. Box 75, Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York 14205. Tel: 874-4139. An organization for gay Catholics and Christians.

NICKEL CITY LEATHER/LEVI CLUB, P.O. Box 897 Ellicott Station, Buffalo, New York. Contact the above for further information about the group.

COUNTRY FRIENDS, P.O. Box 106, Clarence Center, N.Y. 14032. Gay women's social group which meets outside city. Women of all ages welcome.

GAY AWARENESS ORGANIZATION (GAO), State University of New York at Fredonia, Fredonia, New York 14063. An organization for gay students at SUNY Fredonia. Meets Wednesdays, 7 p.m. Room S-123, Campus Center.

BOOKSTORES

EMMA FEMINIST BOOKSTORE, 2474 Main St., Buffalo, New York (at Greenfield St.). Tel: 836-8970. Feminist and gay books.

MARRAKESH, 140 Allen St., Buffalo, N.Y. Tel: 882-8200. Gayellow Page directories, gay periodicals, lambda jewelry.

TALKING LEAVES, 3144 Main St., Buffalo, N.Y. Tel 837-8554. Christopher Street, The Advocate, Gay Community News, Body Politic, R.F.D., Gay Left, Outcome, Achilles Heel, Gay Insurgent. Gay novels and periodicals.

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M.C. Compton's, 1239 Niagara St. Near Breckenridge.

VILLA CAPRI, 926 Main St., Buffalo. Tel: 886-9469.

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